

enough to pursue a path that will only lead to more conflict and bloodshed.

That's why I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H. Res. 268 and in opposing the Palestinians' dangerous and desperate effort to obtain an empty declaration of statehood without peace at the United Nations.

HONORING REVEREND GEORGE
LEE JOHNSON

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, Mr. NUNES and Mr. COSTA, to acknowledge and honor the life of a beloved leader in the Fresno Community, Reverend George Lee Johnson, and to recognize his tireless work as the Senior Pastor of Peoples Church. Ministering to thousands, Reverend Johnson earned the respect of fellow clergy and civic leaders alike.

The son of a Baptist minister, George Lee Johnson, or G.L. as he came to be known, grew up in Houston. He moved to Fresno in 1961 to work as the Associate General Director of the Latin American Orphanage. That same year, Reverend Johnson and his wife, Jackie, joined the then small Peoples Church. In 1963, Reverend Johnson became the Pastor of Peoples Church at the age 37.

Reverend Johnson's commitment to his faith and the congregation of Peoples Church resulted in significant growth of the organization. His uplifting messages of hope and faith appealed to many worshipers. In 1978, Peoples Church moved to a sanctuary with capacity of more than 2,000 people, allowing over 5,000 people to attend numerous different services on Sunday. With an ever-increasing following, Peoples Church attracted a mix of civic leaders. Moreover, Reverend Johnson's hard work and service were influential in the community of Fresno. He organized the Pastor's Prayer Summit in Oakhurst, where over 45 clergy members met to pray for guidance for civic leaders in combating Fresno's crime rate and resolving socioeconomic problems. The success of this event inspired Reverend Johnson to organize a weekly Citywide Pastors Prayer Meeting which began in 1993 and still takes place today. In 2001, the Reverend was instrumental in bringing the Central Valley Billy Graham Crusade to Bulldog Stadium, an event which united more than 200,000 people.

Reverend G.L. Johnson retired from Peoples Church in 2008 after 45 years of service as the Senior Pastor. However, his retirement from the church did not mark the end of his ministry. Reverend Johnson continued to support the church and lend his wisdom and knowledge to the many Fresno residents who looked to him for guidance. He also traveled throughout the world, teaching at various religious conferences. After a brave battle with cancer, Reverend George Lee Johnson passed away surrounded by his loving family at the age of 83.

Mr. Speaker, please join Mr. NUNES, Mr. COSTA, and I in honoring Reverend George Lee Johnson for his unwavering leadership, and recognizing his accomplishments and contributions as Pastor of Peoples Church.

The life of Reverend George Lee Johnson serves as an example of excellence to those in our community, and his legacy will not be soon forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 498 on July 6, 2011, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

INTRODUCING THE AMERICAN
TRAVELER DIGNITY ACT OF 2011

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce legislation to protect Americans from physical and emotional abuse by Federal Transportation Security Administration employees conducting screenings at the nation's airports. Year after year the TSA seems more belligerent toward Americans simply seeking to travel within their own country—a most basic of our fundamental rights—and sadly Americans are just expected to shut up and take it. We should not have to shut up and take it.

Many Americans continue to fool themselves into accepting TSA abuses by saying "I don't mind giving up my freedoms for security." In fact, they are giving up their liberties and not receiving security in return. Time and time again we see the revolting pictures of Federal screeners with their hands down the pants of children while parents watch helplessly in agony. We see elderly or disabled Americans being forced to endure all manner of indignity. At the same time, we repeatedly hear of passengers who seem to check all the boxes marked "suspicious activity" slipping through unencumbered. Just recently we read of a Nigerian immigrant breezing through TSA security checks to board a flight from New York to LA—with a stolen, expired boarding pass and an out-of-date student ID as his sole identification. We should not be surprised to find government ineptitude and indifference at the TSA, however.

What we ultimately need is real privatization of security, but not phony privatization with the same TSA screeners in private security firm uniforms still operating under the "guidance" of the Federal Government. Real security will be achieved when the airlines are once again in charge of protecting their property and their passengers.

To move us in that direction, I am today introducing the American Traveler Dignity Act, which establishes that any Federal employee or agency or any individual or entity that receives Federal funds is not immune from any U.S. law regarding physical contact with another person, making images of another person, or causing physical harm through the use of radiation-emitting machinery on another person. It means they are not above laws the rest of us must obey. As we continue to see

more and more outrageous stories of TSA abuses and failures, I hope that my colleagues in the House will listen to their constituents and join with me to support this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 24, I was delayed in leaving the Medal of Honor Recognition Ceremony for Staff Sergeant Salvatore Guinta and was unable to reach the floor to cast my vote before the vote was closed. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

ANOTHER UNFOLDING TRAGEDY
IN SUDAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit an article which recently ran in the BBC regarding the unfolding tragedy in Sudan.

On the eve of the birth of a new nation in South Sudan, Khartoum is once again perpetrating acts of violence against its own people—this time in Southern Kordofan.

First-hand accounts emerging from the region are chilling . . . door to door executions, reportedly based on ethnicity and political affiliation; Antonov bombers leaving a trail of devastation in their wake, mass displacement.

The world says, "never again," and yet in the face of mounting atrocities, where is the outrage?

[From BBC News, June 23, 2011]

SUDAN'S SOUTH KORDOFAN: "BOMBINGS,
BLOOD AND TERROR"

More than 70,000 people are said to have fled violence in Sudan's South Kordofan state, where the government says it is disarming rebels. The region borders South Sudan, a largely Christian and animist region, which is due to gain independence from the mostly Arabic-speaking, Muslim north on 9 July.

There is concern about the humanitarian crisis and the alleged atrocities being committed. The area has effectively been cut off by the military and not much has been heard from people in the area. One aid worker who has just left the region told the BBC's Will Ross about his experiences:

It is terrifying. The civilians try to hide but generally they run in panic and hence, sadly, there are many casualties who die because of shrapnel. There are bombings and shellings every day in different areas.

There is a plane called an Antonov which circles high in the sky and keeps coming over. Then there is the whistle of the bombs as they fall. You have a few seconds to run but you do not know if it is going to fall on you or not. The sounds of the explosions are huge and sometimes the craters they leave are five or six metres across.

Burning hot pieces of jagged metal, the shrapnel, go flying across the air and if you are not below the surface in a hole or a dug-out you are at huge risk.

BLOOD AND FLIES

Then there are the MiGs [planes] which come in very, very fast and low. These fire

rockets and they are terrifying because they are on top of you before you know it. You have no warning.

They are very loud and so the terror that this incites in people, even if you survive these attacks, is enormous.

They can continue for hours on end. You can imagine how awful that is for women and children and men, rural farmers who have no military background whatsoever. And when they sense that this is not an enemy from outside that is attacking, this is their own government, they just do not understand why this is happening.

There are so many poignant, heart-breaking stories.

A local farmer was lying on the floor of a hospital in enormous pain, with a large piece of shrapnel that had gone through his leg, with blood and flies over him. Again and again he was asking the same desperate questions: "Why is our president doing this to us? Why is he bombing us?"

He kept saying: "This is wrong".

Then there was a young man who had fled a village that was attacked and when the SAF [northern] troops withdrew, he found to his horror that his wife and children had been abducted by the army.

With anguish in his voice he said he would rather have been killed than his wife and child taken.

"I don't know what they will do to them, I don't think I will see them again," he said.

No less than 75,000 people have been displaced, and because the bombing and shelling is continuing, that number is probably going up every day.

This is not a war of north versus south—this is about a people within north Sudan who want a peaceful existence in the north just with social and economic opportunities and access to justice.

The Nuba, a large percentage of whom are Muslims, feel their future is with north Sudan.

The people of South Kordofan, both the Nuba and people from the nomadic Arab tribes, feel marginalised by Khartoum. They feel they are not granted basic human rights.

HOUSE-TO-HOUSE EXECUTIONS

The area offers a remarkable alternative vision of how Christian and Muslims and animists can live together. I have witnessed after Eid, the Christians bringing breakfast for their Muslim brothers and sisters, and at Christmas and Easter all the people from the mosque coming to say "congratulations".

But people there feel the government in the last few weeks has revealed it has no interest in allowing a political solution that gives rights to an alternative voice in the north, where there is religious tolerance and Christians and Muslims living together.

There is so much anguish. People say they don't want war but they say until the policies of Khartoum change, they see no alternative.

They are asking for help from all northern Sudanese to come back from this madness and have a look at how to build a peaceful, tolerant society in the north.

We are getting very strong reports that house-to-house executions are going on by internal security forces where summary executions are taking place based on ethnicity, political affiliation and even how black you are. These are civilians, intellectuals, teachers, community leaders, Muslims and Christians, and often they are killed by their throats being slit.

This may be only the beginning and it could well continue for many months and intensify. There is a complete lack of access—we learnt that the only airstrip that was left had been bombed and we have heard the government of Sudan will shoot down UN flights

operating in South Kordofan so humanitarian flights are no longer an option.

We know that there is no access from the north by road so we are looking at a population that is now effectively besieged—without access to services or humanitarian aid and who are under fire.

I fear the government has started these military operations to try to ensure that opposition voice is completely squashed before the 9 July, so that no thought of help of any sort could come from the south, knowing that the emerging republic of South Sudan would be very unwilling to get involved as it would endanger their independence.

The great majority of Nuba people that I have spoken to are very worried the Egyptian forces that make up a large percentage of the UN peacekeepers are not seen as sufficiently neutral. Their cultural and religious background and their behaviour and attitude towards black Nuba people are unhelpful.

HONORING THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, 76 years ago, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law the National Labor Relations Act, which continues to protect the rights of employees and employers, encourages fair bargaining, and blocks harmful practices that hurt our Nation's workers, businesses and the economy.

This important piece of legislation in our Nation's history has allowed working Americans to enjoy their rights to assemble and organize into labor unions. Unions have been instrumental in strengthening the middle class. Leaders like AFL-CIO President Dennis Hughes, DC 37 Executive Director Lillian Roberts, Teamsters Local 237 President Gregory Floyd, SEIU Local 1199 President George Gresham and SEIU 32BJ President Mike Fishman, and AFT and UFT Presidents Randi Weingarten and Michael Mulgrew have all marched in the spirit of A. Philip Randolph and Thomas Van Arsdale to protect the civil rights of all Americans in the workplace and I stand by my fellow soldiers in our continued struggle to preserve the Labor Movement and all the victories fought and won.

With the recent change of rules enacted by the National Labor Relations Board, working Americans will be able to quickly unionize and cut the time businesses have to mount anti-union campaigns. There is still more to do for our workers. That is why I co-sponsored the Employee Non-Discrimination Act which prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender in the workforce. I will keep on supporting other bills that ensure labor rights and will work hand in hand with union leaders to create an equal partnership in revitalizing our economy."

IN RECOGNITION OF TEMPLE EMANU-EL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Temple Emanu-El of Edison, New

Jersey, as its members gather to celebrate its 50th Anniversary. Under the leadership of Rabbi Emeritus Alfred Landsberg and Rabbi Deborah Bravo, Temple Emanu-El is a respected educational and religious institution for many families whose members remain committed to various community service activities. Their hard work and dedication are worthy of this body's recognition.

Since its founding in 1961, Temple Emanu-El's membership remains open to persons of any race, sex, ethnic background, physical capability, sexual orientation, national origin or marital status. The synagogue is a sanctuary for interfaith families, gay and lesbian groups as well as numerous organizations and religious communities interested in pursuing the Jewish faith. Its rich diversity ensures the organization's ability to provide various religious programs for all ages. The synagogue is proud to be the first religious school within the region to offer special education programs to its members. Pre-school students have the opportunity to celebrate Shabbat through song and craft programs. Teens also get together at Temple Emanu-El to study Judaism with their friends while community members remain engaged in the sacred work of 'tikkun olam', the repair of the world, through various social action programs.

The worshipers of Temple Emanu-El are committed to participating in various community programs and service endeavors. Food and monetary funds are collected by the worshipers and delivered to the members of the community. The members also partake in the weekend meals-on-wheels delivery program as they continue to reach out to members of their community in need.

The synagogue also maintains a commitment to provide various educational opportunities. Temple Emanu-El provides programs for the children to learn Hebrew and various Jewish traditions while adults are given the opportunity to study with Scholars-in-Resident and participate in Bar/Bat Mitzvah programs. Many congregants also join together on a weekly basis to study Torah. In addition to the plethora of activities offered at Temple Emanu-El, the synagogue remains a serene house of worship for its members to congregate and reflect.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Temple Emanu-El on its 50th Anniversary and thanking the members for their continued contribution to the Jewish community.

AFGHANISTAN DRAWDOWN

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, in October, our troops will have been in Afghanistan for ten years. It is the longest war in our country's history. I am concerned that the mission has become more ambitious and our exit strategy has become increasingly vague.

This year is on pace to become the deadliest of this war. Over 1,600 Americans have been killed and 11,000 wounded in Operation Enduring Freedom. A 2008 study by RAND Corp. estimates that over 26 percent of troops may return from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan with mental health issues. In terms of financial costs, California taxpayers alone have